

Fashion student wins contest

BY KAREN MARTIN

Assistant People editor

On a lark, Martha Landry entered the student fashion design competition at Miami Beach International Fashion Week.

She won.

The 21-year-old LSU fashion design student, who also is working on her fine arts degree in sculpture, beat out students from South Korea and Argentina to earn the honor.

"It's a contest for fashion design students around the world," said Landry. "You had to present three sketches and the swatches you would make them from. They selected three finalists, then you had to make your garment and send it."

Landry said her burnt orange jacket and olive pants ensemble nabbed her the top honor earlier this month.

For winning, Landry will get a one-hour mentoring session with Mercedes Gonzalez, president of Global Purchasing Group and a buyer in the garment industry since 1988, and a 40-hour internship with one of Miami's top fashion designers, Julian Chang.

"I'm really excited to be able to have an hour with someone in the business, because I want to start my own business and to work with someone as well known as Julian Chang. I know I will learn a lot," said Landry, who hopes to start her own Internet-based design business after she graduates in December.

In its 13th year, Miami Beach International Fashion Week is billed on its website as "the largest international and Hispanic fashion event in the U.S."

Designers from Spain, India, Italy, Canada, Malaysia, Pakistan, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Eastern

Europe, the Caribbean, Mexico and countries throughout South and Central America present their latest collections

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in women's day and evening wear, men's wear, swimwear, jewelry and accessories at the event, the website says.

This is the fourth year for the student competition.

Landry said she learned of the contest from a teaching assistant at LSU, and she and one other student decided to enter.

Landry plans to graduate in December with two bachelor's degrees — one from the College of Agriculture, which houses the School of Human Ecology's Textile, Apparel Design and Merchandising program, and one from the College of Art & Design, where she is studying sculpture.

The two mesh nicely, she said.

"Sculpture is a lot about en-

gineering. If I'm going to make something out of cast aluminum, there's a lot to figure out about how you're going to do it and what you have to do to make it stand," said

Landry. "Clothing is the same process. You have to figure out how you're going to cover the shape of the arm or how it has to move to get your arm into the sleeves."

Landry said she became interested in fashion as a student at Baton Rouge Magnet High School.

"My mom does fiber art, so I've been around textiles and fiber longer than I've been interested in fashion. I started drawing people and you have to draw clothing on the people," she said.

"A lot of people liked my sketches and said I should make them," Landry said.

And so she did.

And now she's won.

Advocate staff photo
by KAREN MARTIN

LSU student Martha Landry shows the sketch that she turned into an ensemble that won her the student fashion design competition at Miami Beach International Fashion Week.

